



Approved For Release 2002/05/23 : CIA-RDP82S00527R000100050002-0

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

AD HOC COMINT/COMSEC COMMITTEE

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I submit herewith the Final Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on COMINT/COMSEC, established by Secretary Wilson to conduct an examination of the communications intelligence and communications security programs of the United States Government as administered by the Department of Defense.

For more than a year this Committee, composed of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (FM), the Under Secretary of the Navy, the Under Secretary of the Air Force, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (MP&R), the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Compt), the Director, National Security Agency, the Director, Special Operations, and the Deputy Director, Joint Staff for Intelligence, with its Committee of Alternates as a major working party at the next lower echelon, and various subcommittees, composed of experts and specialists, addressed themselves to the problem of achieving greater efficiency and economy in our national COMINT/COMSEC effort within an expenditure level no higher than that of FY 1957.

This major goal has been accomplished. The Committee is satisfied that the COMINT/COMSEC industry is now in a position to accomplish its critical intelligence mission more effectively; and, despite certain technological advances which have served to increase some costs, to do so at a rate of expenditure actually below that of 1957.

The Committee has made a number of recommendations for improved operations and administration that are now underway. These are summarized in the report. It has also made certain recommendations for future or continuing action which will lead to additional improvements. These are also amplified in this report.

Two items merit specific remarks:

a. The Committee has previously recommended, and the Deputy Secretary has approved, a review of the IDP by end FY 1959. In the light of current circumstances, including continuing budgetary pressures and personnel ceilings, the Committee now believes an initial review should be completed by October 1958 and annually thereafter. This new IDP level, taking into account the adjustments derived from the Committee's recommendations respecting [redacted] should be approved by you prior to its promulgation at USCIB.

b. With respect to the report on training, the Committee has made certain recommendations; however, both in the field of language training and in the field of intercept operator training, the problems transcend the immediate competence of the group considering COMINT/COMSEC. Linguistics are Department-wide and both the COMINT and the general communications elements are heavily involved in basic operator training. The study should not, therefore, be considered complete, and further action would appear to be feasible under the Presidential directive that the Department of Defense consider the language problem at large, and a similar directive from the President respecting general military communications problems.

With the exception of these two items, the Committee's review of the work done during the past year remains, in its judgement, valid as contained herein.

With continuous effective leadership and active follow-up on these actions, the Committee believes that NSA and the cryptologic agencies will continue to play a vital role in the national intelligence operations so critical to national security.

Faithfully yours,

/s/ Reuben B. Robertson, Jr.

REUBEN B. ROBERTSON, JR.
Chairman

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NSA TS CONTL. NO. 58-01915

(Revised 1 July 1958)

COPY NUMBER 23
Approved For Release 2002/05/23 : CIA-RDP82S00527R000100050002-0
THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS 22 PAGES

25X1